

# Animals in Nursery Policy & Procedure

## Grass Roots Nursery Group: Animals in the Nursery Setting

### Purpose:

To outline procedures for incorporating animals into the nursery setting at Grass Roots Nursery Group, ensuring a safe, educational, and enriching experience for children.

### Key Principles:

- **Animal Welfare:** Prioritise the well-being and safety of the animals.
- **Child Safety:** Ensure the safety of children and prevent any potential risks associated with animal interactions.
- **Educational Benefits:** Leverage animals as educational tools to support child development.
- **Parental Consent:** Obtain parental consent for children to interact with animals.

### Procedures:

#### 1. Animal Selection:

- Carefully select animals that are suitable for a nursery setting, considering factors like temperament, size, and potential risks.
- Prioritise gentle and well-behaved animals.
- Avoid exotic or potentially dangerous animals.

#### 2. Risk Assessment:

- Conduct a thorough risk assessment for each animal, considering factors like allergies, hygiene, and safety.
- Develop safety protocols to mitigate potential risks.

#### 3. Animal Care:

- Ensure proper housing, nutrition, and veterinary care for the animals.
- Regularly clean and sanitise animal enclosures.
- Develop a plan for weekend and holiday care.

#### 4. Child Interaction:

- Supervise children at all times during animal interactions.
- Teach children proper handling techniques and respect for the animals.
- Encourage hand washing before and after contact with animals.
- Avoid contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.

#### 5. Parental Consent:

- Obtain parental consent for their child to interact with animals.
- Inform parents of any allergies or concerns.
- Respect parental wishes regarding animal interactions.

#### 6. Staff Training:

- Train staff on proper animal care, safety protocols, and potential risks.

- Educate staff on the educational benefits of animal interactions.

#### **7. Emergency Procedures:**

- Have emergency procedures in place for animal-related incidents.
- Ensure staff are trained in first aid for animal bites or scratches.

#### **Additional Considerations:**

- **Allergy Awareness:** Be aware of potential allergies and take precautions to prevent allergic reactions.
- **Animal Behaviour:** Monitor animal behaviour and intervene if necessary to ensure safety.
- **Educational Opportunities:** Integrate animals into the curriculum for educational activities and experiences.
- **Review and Updates:** Regularly review and update the animal policy to ensure it remains effective.

**By following these procedures, we can create a safe and enriching environment for children to learn and interact with animals at Grass Roots Private Day Nursery.**

## Appendix 1

### Frank:

- Frank is a Staffador (Labrador x Staffordshire terrier) and was born August 2018.
- Frank is fully vaccinated, wormed, flead and is registered with the local vet.
- Frank is groomed regularly.
- Frank's owner Lucy Pottinger is liable and Frank is fully insured for public liability.
- Frank is permitted in the office and entrance way. His interaction with children has to be 1:1, Lucy with Frank and another staff member with the child.
- Frank has access to water which isn't in an area the children are permitted. Frank also has treats at the nursery which are stored away from the children. These treats are also stored away in areas that won't attract pests.